

AUG 28 1992

MEMORANDUM R. A. PAGES

DATE: AUGUST 27, 1992

RE: CAL/EPA AIR RESOURCES BOARD: FINAL REPORT ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF FORMALDEHYDE AS A TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANT, JULY 1992

Background

A toxic air contaminant (TAC) is defined in the California Health and Safety Code § 39655 as "an air pollutant which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health." Evaluation of possible TACs is overseen by the Air Resources Board (ARB), part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). ARB staff prepare an exposure assessment and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) staff prepare a written evaluation on available health effects information. After a public comment period, all materials are formally reviewed by the Scientific Review Panel (SRP) at a public meeting. SRP then submits a written report to ARB.

ARB Final Report

Formaldehyde was ident: 1 (COP)-
by the ARB. However, due to wr. Send copy to rch 12, 1992,
OEHHA staff were directed to Richard Carchman ints, ARB and
clarifications to" the initial rep. y to "make
those efforts, is dated July 199: R&D/T5 t, reflecting
summary and three volumes of sup an executive
the Technical Support Document (the exposure assessment,
health assessment, and public comm and ARB/OEHHA responses).
Following its identification as a TAC, formaldehyde will enter a
"risk management" or "control" phase, during which a report on the
need for and degree of control measures will be prepared.

Classification as a TAC

ARB's recommendation that formaldehyde be classified as a TAC was based on the following: (1) sufficient evidence that exposure to formaldehyde poses a public health hazard; (2) that formaldehyde is detected in ambient and indoor air and does not break down at a rate that would eliminate exposure; and (3) that formaldehyde is listed as a hazardous air pollutant by the federal government.

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